

without representation, and the right of trying accused Americans in English courts, declared the right of the colonies to concur and co-operate in seeking redress of grievances. On account of those resolutions Lord Botetourt, the royal Governor, promptly dissolved the Burgesses, who, as private citizens, immediately met in the Apollo room of the famous Raleigh Tavern and, following the example of Massachusetts, pledged themselves to refrain from trade with England until such time as she should show a disposition to treat the colonies justly. When in a few months word was brought that the English government had relented, and that at the next session of Parliament a proposition would be made to remove the obnoxious duties, the governor reassembled the Burgesses in the hope that the trouble would be tide-d over. At this session, advancing about a century ahead of his time. Jefferson introduced a bill making it lawful fo>r a master to emancipate his slaves. The prompt and emphatic rejection of the bill caused him to lose hope of the speedy settlement of the slavery question in Virginia, but it did not shake, his belief in the justice of the cause.

In 1770 Jefferson's home at Shadwell was destroyed by fire, and with it his furniture, books and law-papers. Only a highly prized violin was rescued from, the flames. About two> miles from the Shadwell house was a hill named by Jefferson, Monti-cello* (little mount). This eminence commands a view of surpassing beauty, and was chosen by Jefferson as the site of a mansion that should embody his ideas of architecture—an art upon which he expended much thought, and in which he was more than an amateur. After the fire the building of a new house upon the "little mount" was pushed rapidly, and in something more than a year a section was ready for occupancy.

In 1772 Jefferson married and brought to his new mansion Martha Skelton, a childless widow of twenty-two, the daughter of John Wayles, a wealthy lawyer of Williamsburg. A story oi the wooing is told by Randall, Jefferson's most faithful biographer. The widow Skelton, it seems, had many suitors. "Upon

*See Monticello, page 311.